

Elijah E. Belding House
East side Mt. Hermon Station Road,
North of road to Northfield
West Northfield
Franklin County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-635

HABS
MASS
6-NORTHW
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

ELIJAH E. BELDING HOUSE

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MASS
6-NORTHW

Location: On east side of Mt. Hermon Station Road, just north of intersection with road to Northfield; West Northfield, Franklin County, Massachusetts.

Present Owner: Eloise Poneck.

Present Occupant: Eloise Poneck and family.

Present Use: Residence.

Brief statement of Significance: Temple-inspired house type of the mid-19th century; the largest house in a small village; leading family of latter 19th century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: In possession of Belding family until 1930's. Gene Sulyma purchased property from Belding estate. Peter Skib in 1939; Constantine Karloff in 1940; Earl and Marian Kemp 1941-1943. Purchased by Eloise Poneck in 1944. /Deeds in possession of owner, Mrs. Poneck, West Northfield, Mass./
2. Date of erection: Thought to be around 1840. Is shown on map of 1858. /Interview with Mrs. Priscilla Carroll, East Northfield, Mass., and Miss Elsie S. Scott, Northfield, Mass., on Aug. 27, 1959./
3. Builder: Thought to be George Stearns. /Interview with Mrs. Priscilla Carroll, East Northfield, Mass., and Miss Elsie S. Scott, Northfield, Mass., on Aug. 27, 1959./
4. Notes on alterations and additions: Within last 15 years: Rear stair removed; partition divides stair hall into hall and bedroom; side porch on north filled in to make laundry. /Interview with Eloise Poneck, West Northfield, Mass., on Aug. 27, 1959./
5. Sources of information: (1) Deeds in possession of owner, Mrs. Poneck, West Northfield, Mass. (2) Interview with Mrs. Priscilla Carroll, East Northfield, Mass., and Miss Elsie S. Scott, Northfield, Mass., on Aug. 27, 1959. (3) Interview with Eloise Poneck, West Northfield, Mass., on Aug. 27, 1959.

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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: Imposing two-story Greek Doric portico. Temple-inspired house type of the mid-19th century.
2. Condition of Fabric: Fair. Exterior needs painting; some woodwork deteriorating, especially at porches.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Two stories. Main section, approx. 45' x 26'; ell, 30' x 18'; shed, 50' x 26'.
2. Foundations: Granite - large blocks.
3. Wall construction: Wood frame, clapboards. Partitions of vertical boards with wood lath and plaster applied to both sides. On west front, four large doric columns of portico fluted, of wood on granite bases.
4. Chimneys: Brick. One in main section, one in ell.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Main entrance on west, at north corner; fluted jambs, fret and panel motif on lintel; side lights and transom lights; 8-panel door. Side entrance on south; transom light, moulded jambs. Granite steps.
 - b. Windows and shutters: 6/6 double hung sash. Exterior trim plain. Shutters with louvers.
6. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof; slate covered.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Frieze and cornice of Doric order carries around as house cornice. Pediment on west front.
 - c. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plan: Main section rectangular, continued by ell along same axis. Side-hall plan, with stair hall now partitioned; two main rooms to south of stair hall. Ell of one-room width, two rooms in depth. Shed continues main lines of ell.

2. Stairways: Spiral open stairway, only partially visible now. Simple turned spindles.
3. Flooring: Very wide boards.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, papered. Original French wall paper in entrance (stair) hall. Sheet metal on dining room ceiling.
5. Doorways and doors: 6-panel.
6. Trim: One-piece moulded trim; some with corner blocks. Front room mantel has Doric pilasters and entablature; next room has similar mantel. Some rooms have wood base moulding.
7. Hardware: Some doors have thumb latches, some have knobs. Butt hinges.
8. Lighting: Electric. Modern fixtures.
9. Heating: Originally by fireplaces.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: In a very small village; house faces west on Mt. Hermon Station Road.
2. Enclosures: Open.
3. Outbuildings: Shed attached. Two tobacco barns apparently on this site, at rear.
4. Walks: Brick walk to front door.
5. Landscaping: Informal. Lawn, trees, shrubs, flowers.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
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